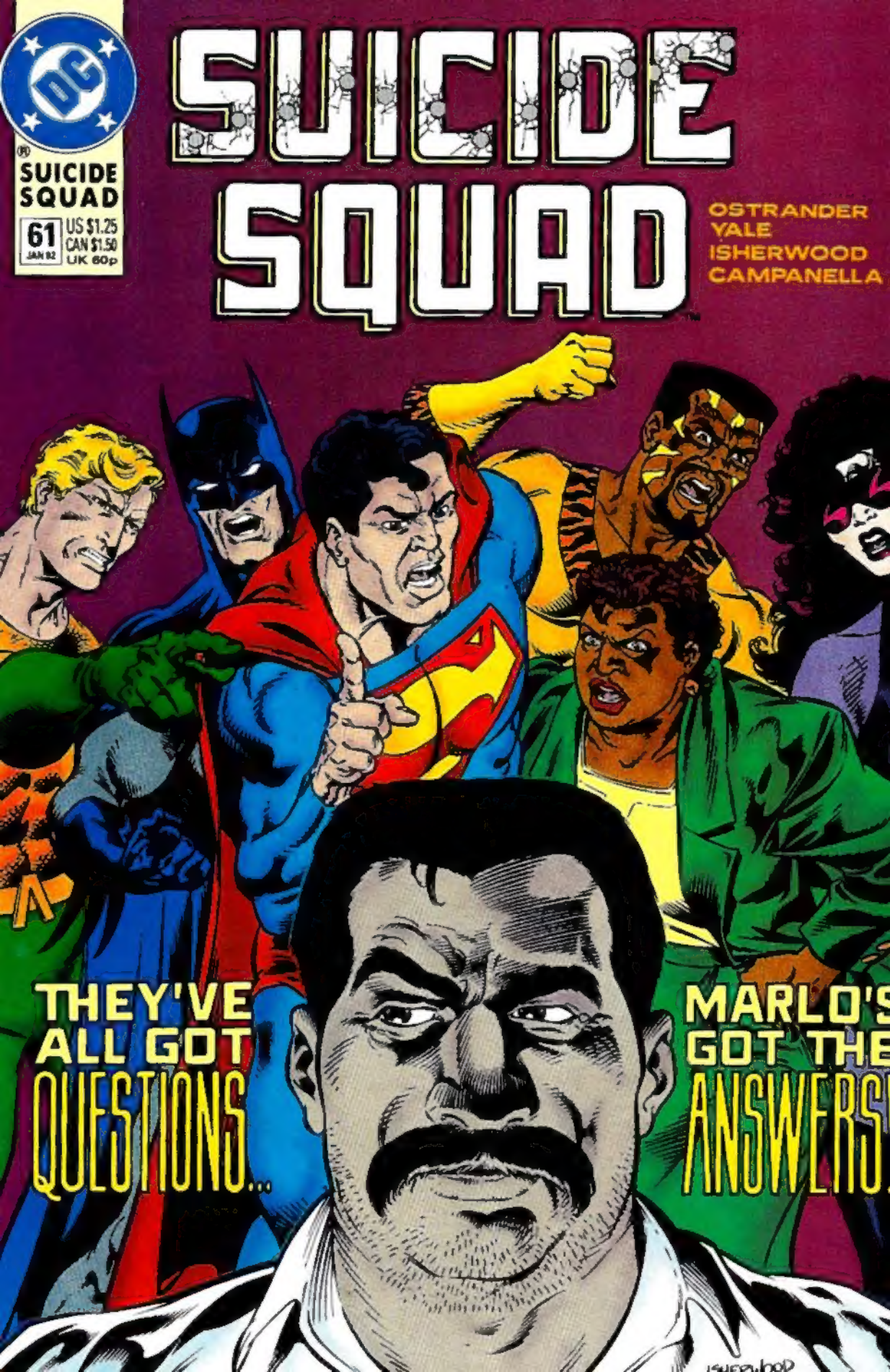
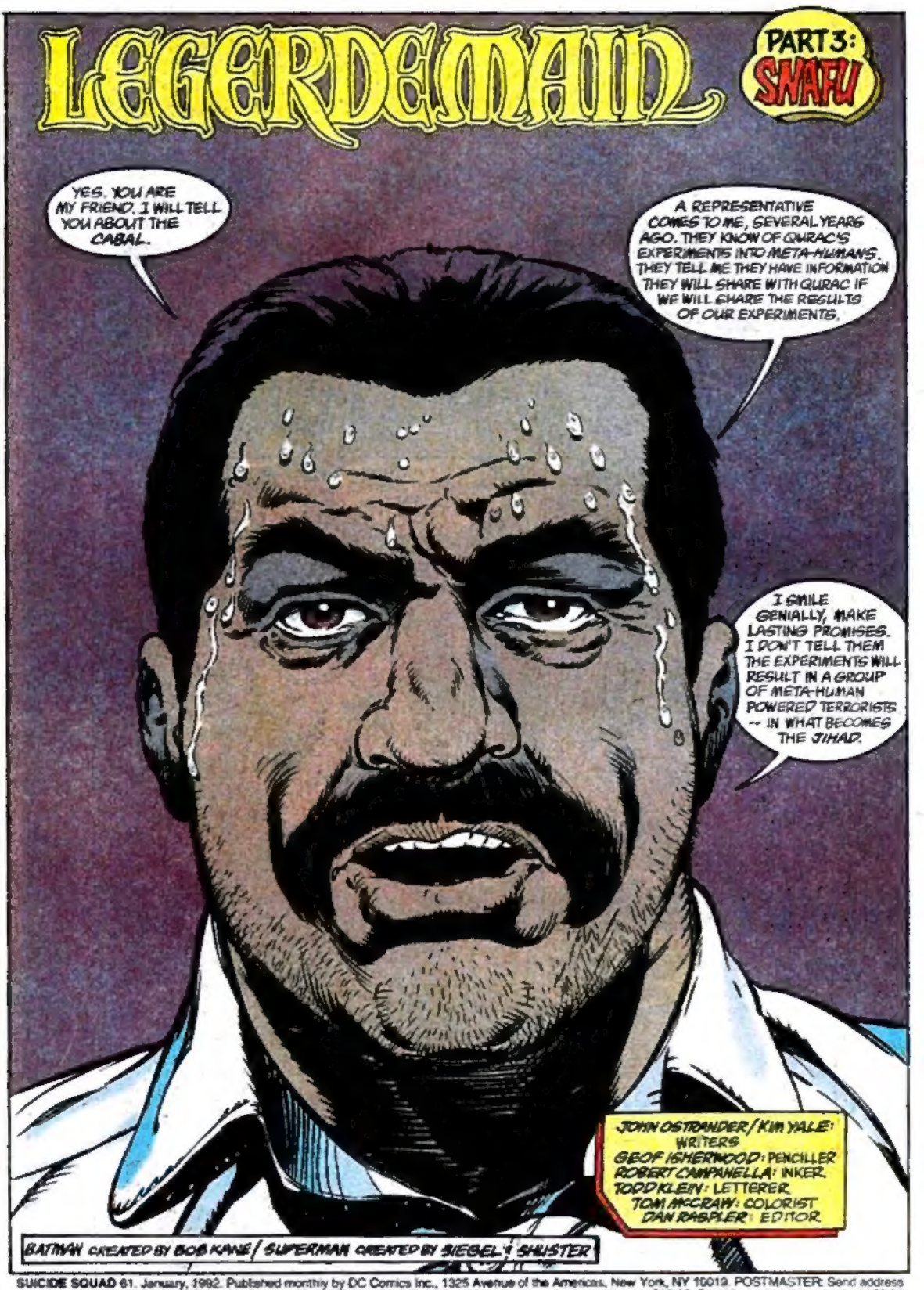

SUICIDE SQUAD
61
JAN 82
US $1.25
CAN $1.50
UK 60p
SUICIDE SQUAD
OSTRANDER
YALE
ISHERWOOD
CAMPANELLA
THEY'VE ALL GOT QUESTIONS...
MARLO'S GOT THE ANSWERS!



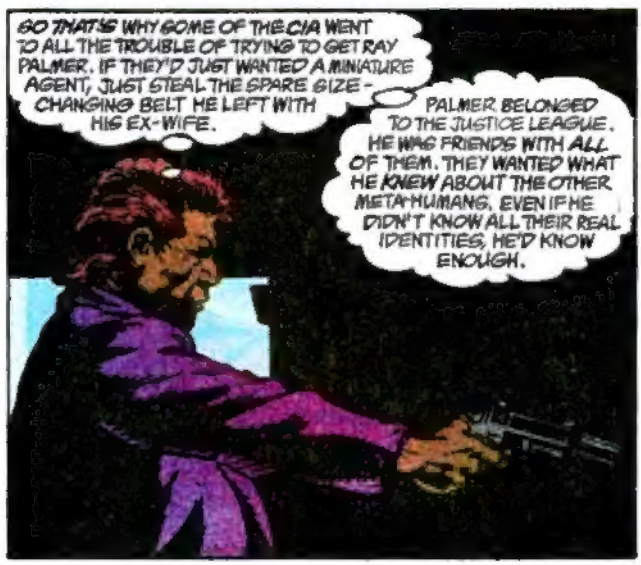
SUICIDE SQUAD 61. January, 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUICIDE SQUAD, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $15.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

FASCINATING! TELL ME MORE, OLD BUDDY!
...YES... I WILL TELL YOU MORE...
THE CABAL... IS PART OF... AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, INDUSTRIAL... CIA... FBI...
HOW ABOUT THE PRESIDENT OR THE CONGRESS? THEM, TOO?
C'MON! YOU CAN TELL ME! WHO'S YOUR BUDDY? HUH? WHO'S YOUR PAL? IT'S ME, RIGHT? SURE IT IS!
YES, YOU ARE MY... "BUDDY".
YOU KNOW IT! BUT, TELL ME, BUDDY--WHY IS THIS CABAL SO OBSESSED WITH META-HUMANS?
IT IS HER FAULT!

MY FAULT?!
YES! THE CABAL LOOKS AT YOU, AT YOUR SUICIDE SQUAD, AND SAY, "SHE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA BUT DOES NOT TAKE IT FAR ENOUGH."

THIS COUNTRY IS SO STUPID! IN OTHER NATIONS, IN QURAC, WE DID NOT ALLOW META-HUMANS TO PUT ON MASKS AND DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED!
WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE! WE CONTROL THEM!

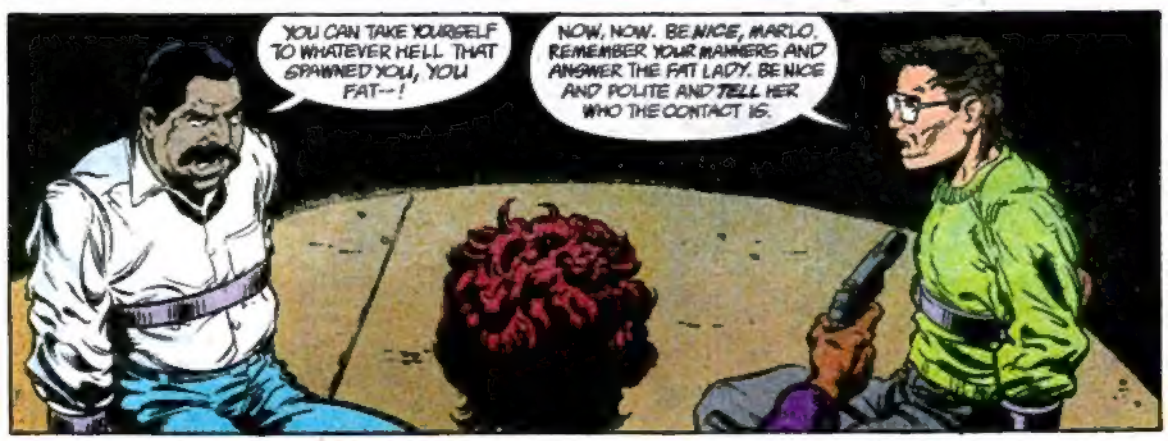
YOU, AMANDA WALLER, HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA. BUT YOU USE ONLY CRIMINAL META-HUMANS!
THE SUPERMAN. THE BATMAN. HOW EFFECTIVE COULD THEY BE IF CONTROLLED... COMPELLED TO WORK FOR YOUR NATIONAL INTERESTS, IF YOUR GOVERNMENT KNEW WHO THEY WERE!


SO THAT'S WHY SOME OF THE CIA WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF TRYING TO GET RAY PALMER. IF THEY'D JUST WANTED A MINIATURE AGENT, JUST STEAL THE SPARE SIZE-CHANGING BELT HE LEFT WITH HIS EX-WIFE.
PALMER BELONGED TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. HE WAS FRIENDS WITH ALL OF THEM. THEY WANTED WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE OTHER META-HUMANS. EVEN IF HE DIDN'T KNOW ALL THEIR REAL IDENTITIES, HE'D KNOW ENOUGH.

BUT WHY DID THEY TELL YOU ALL THIS? I MEAN, I WOULDN'T TRUST YOU WITH IT.

THEY DO NOT. NOR DO I TRUST THEM. SO I SUBORN MY CONTACT PERSON WITH MONEY, WITH WOMEN. I MAKE HIM MY FRIEND AND HE TELLS ME.

INSURANCE AGAINST A DAY LIKE THIS. FIGURED IT'D MAKE THEM CUT YOU LOOSE. EVER DAWN ON YOU THAT THEY'D PREFER TO CUT YOUR THROAT?
STILL--IT'S WORTH KNOWING YOUR CONTACT WEARS A BIG PRICE TAG. WHICH BRINGS US TO THE BIG QUESTION--WHAT IS THIS PERSON'S NAME?


YOU CAN TAKE YOURSELF TO WHATEVER HELL THAT SPAWNED YOU, YOU FAT--!
NOW, NOW. BE NICE, MARLO. REMEMBER YOUR MANNERS AND ANSWER THE FAT LADY. BE NICE AND POLITE AND TELL HER WHO THE CONTACT IS.

HE IS... HIS NAME IS...
MCCLELLAN. MAJOR GEORGE A. MCCLELLAN. AIR FORCE.
THANK YOU, EL PRESIDENTE!

NOW--FOR YOUR NEXT TRICK--WHY DON'T YOU SWALLOW YOUR TONGUE AND CHOKE TO DEATH ON IT?

GUUUKK!
GLAAAK!
STOP IT, CARMICHAEL! AND I MEAN NOW!
NO! I'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY! I'VE DONE WHAT YOU WANTED! NOW I GET TO HAVE SOME FUN!

BLAM!
HEY!
GUKK

DON'T TEST ME, CARMICHAEL. I'M NOT THAT GOOD A SHOT.
ORACLE. WALLER HERE. PUT THE DAMPERS BACK ON THE THINKER. HE'S GETTING FRISKY.
KOFF KOFF!

DAMPERS ON. BY THE WAY, BATMAN WAS HERE EARLIER LOOKING FOR YOU.
HE HAS INFORMATION TYING YOU TO RAY PALMER'S DEATH. HE'S LOOKING FOR YOU VERY, VERY HARD.

AND HE'S A MAN WHO TENDS TO FIND WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR.
CAN YOU PATCH ME INTO NIGHTSHADE?

"SHE'S ALREADY SAID THERE'S BEEN A DISTURBANCE OF SOME SORT AND SHE'S GOING IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK."

...SO THERE'S MORE THAN ONE GROUP INVOLVED, WHATEVER STEEL IS UP TO, KILLING MARLO ISN'T A PART OF IT. OTHERWISE, MARLO WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD.

THE JIHAD'S NOT A PART OF IT; THEY'RE MARLO'S PEOPLE AND HERE TO RESCUE HIM. GO --

-- WHO WANTS HIM DEAD AND WHY? WHY DID STEEL KIDNAP HIM?

COLONEL MACOHEN, YOU SAID YOU WANT MARLO BECAUSE OF KNOWLEDGE OF DIRTY DEALS BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND OURS. MY SOURCES SUGGEST IT CONCERNS MARLO'S META-HUMAN TERRORISTS -- HIS JIHAD.

TOM. DON'T TURN AROUND. IT'S ME.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

WHAT DIDN'T? THE HAYOTH AND THE REMAINS OF THE JIHAD BOTH CAME FOR MARLO AND THE THREE BIG NAMES WERE WAITING FOR THEM. SOMEBODY'S STACKING THE DECK. BET IT'S YOUR CABAL.

RAY PALMER, IN HIS LAST BOOK, WROTE ABOUT A BAND OF RENEGADE CIA AGENTS WHO TRIED TO RECRUIT HIM INTO THE AGENCY AND DESTROYED THE RACE OF MINIATURE ALIENS HE LIVED WITH IN THE AMAZON.

IN REVENGE, HE SHRANK THE FIVE RESPONSIBLE DOWN TO SIX INCHES. SUPPOSEDLY, THEY'RE STILL WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. DO YOU SEE THE COMMON LINK HERE? YOUR HAYOTH, MARLO'S JIHAD, THE CIA'S LILLIPUTIAN AGENTS --

WHAT WAS IT YOU JUST CALLED THEM, NEMESIS? THE CABAL?
SNARRLLL!
GROWWLL!
WHUD
CHUD
WHOMP!
TZEE TZEE TZEE
VOMP!
KRASHH!
WELL, SHE'S A NEW ONE ON ME. I THOUGHT I HAD HER AND SHE WAS GONE.
HER NAME'S NIGHT-SHADE. SHE CAN CREATE A DIMENSIONAL TUNNEL THROUGH WHICH TO TRAVEL - ALTHOUGH HER OTHER POWERS ARE NEW TO ME.
SHE'S WORKED WITH WALLER IN THE PAST. EVIDENTLY, SHE IS AGAIN.
EVIDENTLY, SO ARE YOU, NEMESIS.
I WANT SOME ANSWERS.
7

NIGHTSHADE TO THE WALL. WE HAVE PROBLEMS.
WELL, THIS IS SPECIAL.
ALL RIGHT, GIRL—GET TO THE RENDEZVOUS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT TREGGER. THESE ARE THE GOOD GUYS. THEY AREN'T GOING TO HURT HIM AND WE'LL PATCH IT ALL UP LATER.
NICE TO SEE THIS IS SLOWLY TURNING INTO YOUR NORMAL SQUAD-TYPE MISSION—ALL FOULED UP.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET ALL NERVOUS, STEEL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT THIS LITTLE CLAMBAKE IN HOUSE INSTEAD OF HIRING US.
IF I COULD HAVE, I WOULD HAVE. BUT WHEN I STARTED LEARNING ABOUT THIS CABAL, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW FAR IT WENT. AND WE STILL DON'T!
WE GOT A LIVE CONTACT—THIS MAJOR MCCLELLAN. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIM AND GET TO HIM BEFORE THE CABAL DOES.
WE HAVE TO ASSUME BY NOW THAT THEY KNOW WE SWITCHED MARLO.

"THEY AREN'T THE KIND TO LEAVE LOOSE ENDS. MCCLELLAN'S AN ENDANGERED SPECIES."

YES, DIRECTOR. I QUITE AGREE. A SMALL FORCE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE IF WE MOVE HARD AND FAST. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT.

NO, I SEE NO REASON NOT TO GO FORWARD WITH THE OTHER PART OF OUR PLAN. YES, I KNOW IT COULD BE PART OF WALLER'S TRAP BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

WHAT SHE PLANS AND WHAT SHE ACCOMPLISHES ARE OFTEN TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. BESIDES, WE'VE WORKED VERY HARD AND VERY LONG AT THIS.

GEN. WADE EILING

"IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, IN A FEW MINUTES, THE ATOM WILL BE OURS."

IF YOU'RE CLEAR ON THE DRILL, LET'S HAVE A DEKKO, EH?

A WHAT?

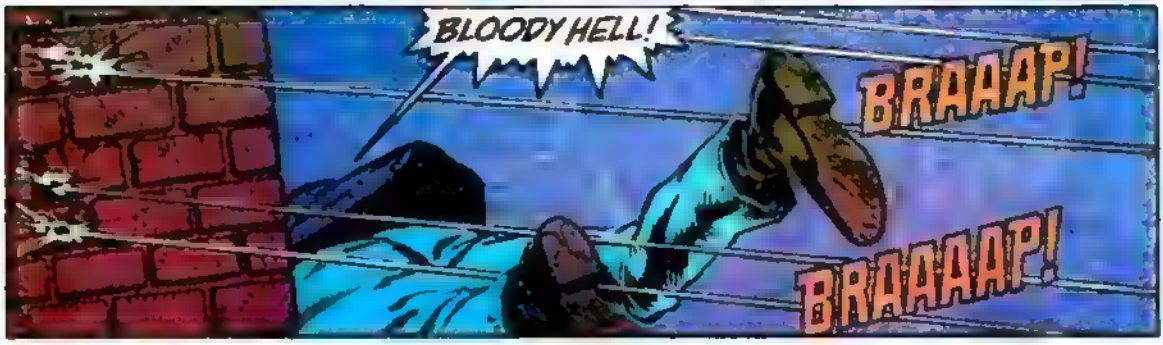
A LOOK. BLOODY HELL!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SPEAK AMERICAN?

KLOP!
AH, THERE YOU ARE, ME LITTLE BEAUTIES. I TRUST THE HALF MILLION IS IN THE PRIVATE SWISS ACCOUNT AS WE AGREED?
YES
BEAUTY! YOU AND YOUR MOB HAVE ANOTHER LURK, GIVE US A CALL, EH?
ESS

CSM
INDUSTRIES
C.C.

OI!


BLOODY HELL!
BRAAAP!
BRAAAAP!

BRAAP!
BRAAP!
BLOODY TWO-TIMING DOUBLE-CROSSING BUGGERS!

BRADOOOM!
FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP

THUNK!
GUK!

OI! CAPTAIN BOOMERANG X! THE WALL! THE BUGGERS JUST TRIED TO
DID THEY SUCCEED?!
OH, HO, HO, HO, WALL BUST MY GUT
IF YOU AREN'T DEAD, THEN YOU'RE OKAY THEY TAKE THE ATOM?

YEAH YEAH YEAH
THEN EVERYTHINGS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. GET TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT. NIGHTSHADE WILL PICK YOU UP. WE GOT PLACES TO GO AND LOTS TO DO. WALLER OUT.
WHAM!

OI! I WONDER IF THIS MEANS THEY GIVEN ME ON THE HALF MILLION?!

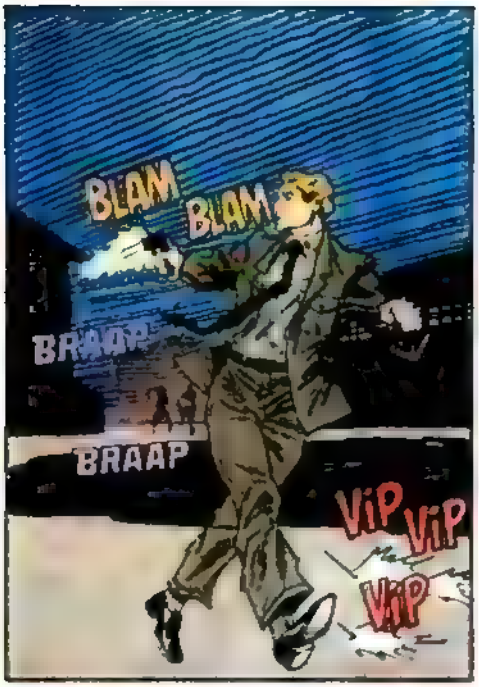
WELL, I FOUND OUT WHERE MCCLELLAN IS CURRENTLY STATIONED
UH OH. I DON'T LIKE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE, STEEL. I'M REALLY GOING TO HATE THIS, AREN'T I?
LET'S SEE — WHAT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE PLACE FOR HIM TO BE LOCATED? PENTAGON? NORAD HQ? OR...
BLOOD ISLAND
OF COURSE SOMEONE WAS LIAISON FOR AGNI AND THE OTHERS. THE CABAL WOULD HAVE WANTED HIM AS CLOSE TO MARLO AS POSSIBLE
THE ONE PLACE THAT HAS NOT ONLY ARMY UNITS BUT SUPERMAN, BATMAN, AND AQUAMAN ALL LOOKING FOR THE SQUAD ANYWAY-- THAT'S WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO!
BAM!
MCCLELLAN'LL KNOW BY NOW THAT MARLO WAS SWITCHED. HE'S GOT TO FIGURE HE WAS COMPROMISED. HE'LL
GET CLOSE TO THE CABAL--YOU'VE GOT TO SEND YOUR PEOPLE IN.
"MAYBE. BUT I WARN YOU, STEEL-- ON THIS ONE, SOMEONE'S BOUND TO WIND UP DEAD!"
ARE THESE THE PRISONERS WHO TRIED TO RESCUE MARLO?
THEY ARE, MAJOR MCCLELLAN.
THEY'RE JUST WHO I WANT, THEN
BLAM!

CLEAR SO FAR REMEMBER--AVOID THE BIG THREE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. JUST FIND AND NAIL MCCLELLAN BEFORE THE CABAL DOES. WE DON'T HAVE TO GET HIM OUT--WE JUST HAVE TO GET TO HIM FIRST!

OH, TURN IT UP! WE'RE ONLY INVADING A MILITARY BASE JAMMED WITH META-HUMANS WHO ARE NONE TOO FOND OF US, LOOKING FOR A GALAH WHO COULD BE ANYWHERE, AND HE WANTS US TO BE CAREFUL. TOO RIGHT ABOUT THAT, MATE!

COUNT, YOU'RE THE RESERVE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF WE NEED IT. LET'S MOVE IT, PEOPLE.

BACK, REBELLIAN?
WHUPS!
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT IT'S HIGHLY PROBABLE YOU'VE BEEN COMPROMISED. GENERAL ELLING HAS DIRECTED WE TERMINATE YOU.
OPEN FIRE, MEN!
FORGET TREGGER FOR THE MOMENT. EITHER HE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW MORE THAN HE SAYS OR HE WON'T SAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TERRORISTS HE CAPTURED? THEY HAD TO HAVE A CONTACT PERSON-- PERHAPS ON THIS BASE. THEY'RE NOT WITH WALLER. PERHAPS A FEW QUESTIONS TO THEM WOULD...
BRAAAAP! BRAAAP! BRAP!
CONVERGE ON THE SHOTS. LET'S GO.
<THIS WAY>
!!!



IS THIS--?

YES, THIS IS THE SUICIDE SQUAD.

NO! WAIT!

I DON'T THINK SO. THOSE ARE AMERICAN SOLDIERS YOU'RE ATTACKING AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU DO THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO TALK--SURRENDER WE'LL TALK BUT THIS FIGHT IS OVER.

FINE. YOU WANT TO TELL THEM?

<NOW, COMRADES, WE FACE A FAIR FIGHT!>

THIS, I BELIEVE, IS THE MOMENT FOR THE "RESERVES" IS IT NOT?

WE'VE FOUGHT BEFORE.
AND I KICKED YOUR BUTT. YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF MY WAY?
NO
BLAM BLAM!
OH! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM, YA BLEEDING DINGO -- A BABBIE?!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU ALL! I COULDN'T HAVE BEGUN TO GET AWAY WITHOUT YOUR SPLENDID DIVERSION!

ELSEWHERE...
LAMMING!
KRAK!
NOW, NOW, BLACKSNAKE -- THAT'S ENOUGH. WE WANT MR. PALMER ALIVE -- THE CABAL WANTS TO KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT THE OTHER META-HUMANS.
AND YOU ARE GOING TO TELL US, PALMER. MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT THAT.
KEEP... TELLING YOU... I'M NOT... PALMER!
REALLY, PALMER -- IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD TO DENY IT. THE BODY BURIED IN YOUR COFFIN BELONGS TO OUR COMPATRIOT GINSBURG! HE WAS THE ONE WHO REALLY DIED IN THAT RAID ON YOUR PLACE. YOU EL[illegible] THE BODY AND BURIED IT.
SIGHHHH! PERHAPS YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU'RE ADAM CRAY. PART OF A DEEP CONDITIONING. WE'LL FIND OUT. IT'LL ALL COME OUT IN THE WASH -- THE BRAIN WASH, THAT IS.
I LIKE MY MIND... A LITTLE... DIRTY, THANKS!
WHAP!

GET OFF, YOU MORON!
BLACKSNAKE! GET AFTER PALMER! STING, GET UP AND HELP BLACKSNAKE, YOU INCOMPETENT FOOL!

HE WON'T GO FAR, MR. BAILEY. NOT SO LONG AS WE HAVE HIS SIZE-CHANGING BELT.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO GO FAR, MS. HUBBARD!

HE CAN LINK US WITH THE CABAL AND, IF HE ESCAPES WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, THAT MAKES *US* A THREAT.
AND YOU *KNOW* HOW THE CABAL DEALS WITH THREATS--OR *FAILURES!*

MAYBE YOU SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS PROTECTION PLAN, HUBBARD.
EXCUSE ME. I BELIEVE THAT'S MINE.

BLACKSNAKE! YOU FOOL! YOU DIDN'T--!

AH SURE DID. AH DONE WHAT AH GWORE TO DO-- WHUT AH WAITED TOO LONG TO DO.

AH JUST KILLED ME RAY PALMER.

NEXT: THE CONCLUSION-- NUMBER THE DEAD!

SUICIDE NOTES

DC COMICS INC.
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief
DICK GIORDANO, VP-Editorial Director
DAN RASPLER, Editor
JIM CHADWICK, Director-Design Services
JOE ORLANDO, VP-Creative Director
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive VP & Publisher
BRUCE BRISTOW, VP-Sales & Marketing
PATRICK CALDON, VP & Controller
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, Dir.-Editorial Administration
CHANTAL D'AULNIS, VP-Business Affairs
LILLIAN LASERSON, VP-Legal Affairs
MATTHEW RAGONE, Circulation Director
BOB ROZAKIS, Production Director

Hey, folks.

Some ending, huh? Guess I'll have to wait a few months to read your comments about this particular act of brutality.

Meanwhile we'll be running letters about SUICIDE SQUAD #57, the conclusion of "The Dragon's Hoard" storyline, as well as #58, our WAR OF THE GODS crossover issue. Let the games begin!

Dear Suicidal People,

You made the right choice. As soon as you kill off Amanda Waller, I stop buying SUICIDE SQUAD. What can I say? She reminds me of my mother, a strong, big, black woman.

Monthly yours,
Wm. John Mundy
New York, NY

P.S. I might, just maybe stick around to see Eve Eden. Maybe. And there's Vixen, too. She reminds me of my sister...potentially vicious, but emotionally vulnerable.

* * * * *

Dear Suicidal Ones,

Aha! Finally clues begin to emerge!

Adam "Atom" Cray mentioned how Ray Palmer warned him about traveling via satellite. This holds possibility!

Is it possible that in return for Amanda's help in "killing off" his Ray Palmer identity, the old Atom agreed to train a new Atom for the Squad? Since the members of the old JLA are going to investigate soon, I'd say that we'll see more along this line.

Very sneaky!

Mark Phillips
P.O. Box 1927
Johnson City, TN 37607

Something like that, Mark.

* * * * *

Dear Suicide Squad,

When the Squad was restructured I wasn't sure I liked the changes. But now I like the way the Squad has evolved. There have been tremendous plot developments and the members have grown and changed a great deal, but essentially the Squad hasn't changed that much. Except it is no longer under the government's control and the members are surviving a lot longer.

About Dr. Dis's letter in SUICIDE SQUAD #57. I greatly prefer the espionage crap to the senseless violence. You can always throw in a little chaos and mayhem here and there along with the espionage. Looks like issue #58 is going to contain enough bloodletting to satisfy Dr. Dis and Co. till next year, anyway.

Margaret Moller
St. Cloud, MN

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

Issue #58 startled me a bit. After the redesigning of the Squad last year, it was surprising to see the old "superhero" costumes and plot return. This was a nice change of pace, but showed just how far John and Kim have taken this title from its roots, and how we can't go back.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed "Suicide Attack," as Black Adam (good to see him again) finally iterated just what's been on my mind for a while: "Your group title is the SUICIDE SQUAD, correct? That's the sort of thing that Suicide Squads do, is it not?" Yes! They should be going on missions of no return. I guess Black Adam is a more thoughtful bloke than I gave him credit for.

The highlight for me this issue, though, was the appearance of "The Writer," a very funny take on Grant Morrison's self-depicted character. And John kills him?!? Watch out in DOOM PATROL for retribution! In-jokes like this make this title so much fun. And, #58 was fun. For a pretty much straightforward battle, this issue had much character.

Has there been a title with such a diversity of plots? I'm not sure, but it's good to see. On to the Atom next month!

Mahalo,
Mark Lucas
1100 Granville Avenue #2
Los Angeles, CA 90049

* * * * *

Dear Danny and Company,

Although the "Dragon's Hoard" storyline was a good one, SUICIDE SQUAD #58 was the best individual issue in quite a while.

I'm glad to see Poison Ivy return and to know that Count Vertigo still nurtures a very justifiable anger with her. I hope you include her in the Atom storyline coming up, as it would be interesting to see how Batman deals with her.

Paul Chin's letter raised some valid points, so it was interesting to see her dealing with a character (Black Adam) with her general attitude, plus super-powers backing up that attitude. I feel he should be a recurring part of the Squad's adventures.

I hope we'll see more of John Henry, too. It was interesting to see how the characters you assembeled dealt with the situation. And I think what happened to The Writer cured me of my writer's block.

The guest stars you used were interesting, but I'd prefer to see the core cast remain the same with the possible addition of John Henry as I mentioned before, and Sportsmaster and Javelin. I will miss Vixen, though, and hope she pops up somewhere else in the DC line.

I'm looking forward to issues #59-#62, especially to see how Ostrander and Yale handle Superman and Aquaman. As he is perhaps Ray Palmer's oldest super-hero friend, I would think Aquaman would have a special interest in finding out what really happened to him.

Jerry Wilson
1121 G/Apt. B
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Squadders,

WOTG my foot. John was starved for blood, and needed to let off some steam for a second.

Of all the characters I wanted to see JO get his mitts on, it was Black Adam. After several thousand years of his life on Earth, he's not going to be the run-of-the-mill "I will CRUSH you, hero!" type. He slaps Maser once, and stands there implacably while everybody wears themselves out. "You're in my way." Oh, God, yes! I, like *le Wall*, love a man who doesn't mince words. Black Adam definitely had all the good lines this issue. "That way I don't get to see their blood spurt." God, I hope the rest of the new Captain Marvel is this good.

And some of those villains were not half bad, either. I like the Sportsmaster, so I never mind seeing him, whoever's in the suit. The Enforcer (the woman in the green armor, I assume?) didn't ring any bells—who is she, please? "The Writer?" BWAH-HAH-HAH! Y'see, this is why I knew John was having fun here.

And a very nice scene between Vertigo and Poison Ivy. The Count is not the type to be merciful when the tables have turned in his favor.

This is the closest to a realistic espionage story you can do that features super-heroes.

Thwack,
Vinnie Bartilucci
45 Newburgh Street
Elmont, NY 11003

Dear Dan,
Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #58

Hm, a new-look Black Adam, eh? No Captain Marvel in sight, so this is a bit of a stretch or a waste, depending on how one looks at it. Karma hasn't been heard from in eons (ah, reaching into the inventory file, eh?), ditto Outlaw, Firehawk, and Maser. Catalyst I can do without. Same with the Writer, who ends up a sacrificial lamb. What is there, however, has potential for staying power. Now, if you could give Ivy her costume back rather than have her in civvies all the time...!

Regrettably, the fight scenes were absolute dullsville. This is due to the fact that as of this writing, WAR OF THE GODS #2 hasn't reached the stores, hence some of us may be a bit lost. Perhaps if you had some idea what's holding up the book?

Next issue promises the mystery of the Atom(s), eh? Fantastic. Another debate between the Wall and Batman, plus Superman and Aquaman, and they ain't negotiating TV contracts! Perhaps Adam Cray was to Ray Palmer what Marvel's new (for ten years) Ant-man was to the original: an ex-con given a second chance. Bet I'm right. See ya in 30.

Jacob Gilbert
118 Fourth Street Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Close enough, Jacob.

* * * * *

Dear Squad Scribes,

Issue #58 was pretty good, kind of reminded me of issue #23's Invasion crossover, but with a little less humor and a little more fire. I liked this one better, but I must protest a bit. We were not shown the fate of Boomer, Javelin, and Nightshade. I now feel obligated to go out and purchase the final issue of WAR OF THE GODS. I'm guessing you people had no choice in the matter, and were more or less forced to construct the story in this way. Well, I'm not going to get up on the soap box about it, but I just thought I would voice my displeasure.

The action in this story was top-notch, and I was happy to see the trimming of some more dead wood. Lawton was his usual tough-as-nails self, and I think I like this John Henry character, but I'll need at least another issue to decide. Obviously, Vertigo's conversion to nobility is not as complete as I had thought; his abandonment of Ivy is proof of that. I have only one word for the character of the Writer: absurd. Please, never again!

The scene between Mari and Ben really hit hard; good stuff, John and Kim.

Regarding Paul Chin's eloquently written letter in the "Suicide Notes" column: look around you, Mr. Chin. The world is a nasty place filled with morally bankrupt individuals, and these are the kind of people that the Suicide Squad features. I have never seen another comic book depict violence and immorality more honestly, more brutally, than SQUAD. This is hard-hitting stuff, and I don't feel anyone involved in the production of it ever intended any of the characters within the stories to be role models. And although I appreciate and agree with your assessment of Amanda Waller, I also see all of the good she has accomplished in her role as head of the Squad. Had her hands been tied by the government, or a keener sense of morality, none of that would have been possible. A bit utilitarian, you might say, but in this world (and in the DC Universe), it takes all kinds. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Scott R. Pyle
IUP
405 Elkin Hall
Indiana, PA 15705

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

John and Kim must be the king and queen of choreographing action. If it wasn't a physical bang, then it was an emotional one such as the leaving of Vixen.

Seeing all those costumes gave me the feeling of taking two steps back. But for WAR OF THE GODS, I guess it had to be done.

See ya.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

Melissa, don't forget how much of the actual "choreography" is laid out by the penciller. John and Kim will say something like, "full-page shot of whole Squad attacking," and Geof runs with it from there. I think he did a terrific job, don't you?

THE NEXT ISSUE BOX THAT WAS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED HUMAN EYE:

It's all-out action and mayhem Squad-style as everybody (The Squad, The Jihad, The Hayoth, The Cabal, and The Big Three) fights everybody else!

And the solution to the question you've all been asking since Ray Palmer was killed way back in #44!

The Mystery of the Atom, solved next issue.

SUICIDE SQUAD #62, "Legerdemain" Part 4, "Number the Dead." See you in a month.

—Dan Raspler
Decisive